



Position Statement on Balboa Park Design Review Concept

In order to strengthen the process by which new park improvement initiatives are implemented, Friends of Balboa Park supports the formation of a volunteer “Design Review Committee” made up of experts in applicable fields and selected by the Mayor to review new projects proposed for Balboa Park. Of particular concern is ensuring greater regard for the impact of proposed designs on the historic architectural character of Balboa Park, as well as factors that impact the park’s internal stakeholders, including project sequencing, communications and general priorities. Friends of Balboa Park believes the formation of this new body should be guided by the following considerations:

1. The Committee should include at least one architect trained in preservation.
2. The Committee should include at least one landscape architect.
3. The Committee should provide guidance that is consistent with the approved Balboa Park Master Plan (1989) and numerous Precise Plans.
4. The Committee should hold regular meetings, unless there are no pending reviews.
5. The Committee should be limited to the exterior aesthetics and functionality of projects. Interior design should not be subject to review by this Committee.

This proposed body should strive to see that Balboa Park’s historic character, charm and beauty are maintained without complicating the approval process for projects. Rather, it should serve to help enhance and strengthen the process by building in efficiencies and establishing an ethos of consensus-building. Thus, the matter of who would be selected to serve, how the body would deliberate and reach conclusions, and how those conclusions are communicated to others will be of keen interest to Friends of Balboa Park, well beyond the body’s initial commissioning.